

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3 and 5 are amended, and new claim 7 is added.

Reconsideration based on the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. The Specification Satisfies All Formal Requirements

Pages 3-6 of the specification are objected to for making reference to claims 1-6. Accordingly, the specification is amended. Withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

II. Claim 5 Satisfies All Formal Requirements

Claim 5 is objected to because claim 5 recites "rag". Accordingly, claim 5 is amended. Withdrawal of the objection to claim 5 is respectfully requested.

III. Claims 5-6 Satisfy the Requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as indefinite. Accordingly, claim 5 is amended. Withdrawal of the objection to claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

IV. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,406,137 to Eaton; and claims 2, 4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Eaton in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,839,406 to Steinthal. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The applied art does not teach, disclose or suggest any suspending member having a middle portion which is wound on at least two surfaces of the tag, as claimed in claim 1 and similarly claimed in claims 3 and 5.

Further, the applied art does not teach, disclose or suggest that the middle portion of a suspending line being wound only around the tag, as claimed in claim 7.

Instead, Eaton discloses that twine (suspending line 14 is wound on the tea bag 10) as best shown in Figures 1 and 2. Thus, since the tag 12 is secured to one end of the twine 14, the tag 12 is unavoidably contacted to the twine 14. As shown in Figure 2, because the tag 12 is disposed in close proximity to the bag for packing purposes, the twine is not wrapped around the tag, but rather the twine is wrapped around one surface of the tag and completely around the tea bag 10.

Additionally, Steinthal does not make up for the deficiencies of Eaton discussed above. Steinthal discloses a dip tray 13 which is larger than a bag body 10 and includes upstanding flanges 15. The bag body 10 is placed in the tray 13 and then the flexible element 11 is wrapped around and beneath tray 13 and can be secured to the lower surface of the bottom of the tray 13 by a gummed label 22.

Accordingly, Steinthal does not make up for the deficiencies of Eaton discussed above. Thus, the combination of Eaton and Steinthal fails to disclose the features recited in the claims.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that the recited features of the claims are not taught or suggested in the applied art. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-7 is respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Kevin M. McKinley
Registration No. 43,794

JAO:KMM/jfb

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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